

From: Jason Howard
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 4:10pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Greetings,

I am writing you today to express my utter distaste with Microsoft's monopolistic attitude and operating procedures. I feel that Microsoft has, in the past and also in the present, used immoral (and at times illegal) tactics to crush would be competition. Microsoft, it seems, has an almost infinite capability for destruction of ideas and philosophies that some how pose a potential risk to their bottom line.

The Microsoft set of operating systems are by far the most widely used operating systems on this planet. A large portion of the software application today run on (and only on) a Microsoft operating system. Now this in and of itself is not a bad thing as a software company (if they want to make any money) will write software for the platform in which the largest user base is possible. Microsoft became a monopoly when they decided to try and force out of business companies that are creating products that would allow average Windows users to use their windows applications on an operating system that they had no control over. Two recent events come to mind very easily: the WINE case and the Lindows case. (Lindows is being sued by Microsoft for trademark violation, claiming that Lindows could be mixed up with Windows. However what I see happening is a sort of legal bullying. Microsoft is putting shear legal force on Lindows that will make its efforts turn from its goal, writing a reasonable alternative to the Windows operating system, to simply defending itself.)

Government involvement in the software industry is a very difficult decision for me (as well as quite a few software engineers) to make. I would not normally lean to the side of government as I feel that the government should stay out of software practices. However in this case I am willing to support the governments actions against Microsoft as they have simply become too large to affect by any other means. That said, I am very unhappy with the way in which the government is handling the case. It seems that to some degree even the United States Government can be partially corrupted by Microsoft's power.

I look forward to your reasonable solution to this unreasonable company,

Thank You,
Jason Howard
Software Engineer

